

# THE UNPROTECTED

Annual spotlight on child protection funding  
in humanitarian action – 2021



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## Front cover:

Shadi, 6-years-old, washing his head and face with water in Hamam Al-Alil camp in Ninawa. Through the programme, 140 latrines and 130 showers have been constructed, along with a water treatment plant that supplies safe drinking water (60,000 litres per day) to the families who live inside the camp. Thousands of litres of water are delivered daily.

AHMAD BAROUDI/SAVE THE CHILDREN

## Back cover:

Students at a school in West Sumba, Indonesia.

The school is among the 47 schools in Loli sub-district that take part in the Save The Children programme 'Little Doctors' in which older primary students educate younger ones about healthy habits, such as hand washing and around 8 doctors per school.

MINZAYAR OO/PANOS/SAVE THE CHILDREN

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# FOREWORD

Children have the right to be protected from harm wherever they are. Care and attention can transform children and their lives, empowering them to be part of protection efforts. Working on the ground, we are witnessing skyrocketing child protection needs as the severity and complexity of protection and other risks in humanitarian crises continue to grow. In Syria, like we are seeing globally, these risks are not only because of the COVID-19 pandemic but also due to protracted crises, and impacts exacerbated by climate change. Collective action is needed if we are to protect children's futures.

The Unprotected Series maintains an important spotlight on the resources needed and those available for child protection actors to provide essential and life-saving services across the humanitarian system. Systemic resource gaps mean that children's protection needs will go unmet significantly impacting on the well-being and development of children, particularly in marginalised situations. Much is already being done with the funding made available to child protection actors and this edition includes examples of what can be achieved when resources are available to child protection actors. However, there are still significant gaps between the resources required and the resources that are available to meet child protection needs. This is particularly the case for access to funding for local and national child protection actors.

Ensuring the protection of children also means that actors in non-child protection sectors understand their roles in protecting children from harm and integrate child protection within their responses. Collective action and change are needed if we are to address the present gaps and fulfil our responsibilities to protect the next generation.

Investing in child protection means not only putting forward the resources to fill these gaps but also enhancing the capacities of child protection actors, including local and national actors, to systematically monitor and present the needs of children impacted by various drivers in humanitarian crises.

Taking stock of where we are today is important. This annual spotlight helps to understand our reality in the protection of children and what action is required to address the existing gaps. In light of the goals we have set, it helps maintain a healthy comparison between our reality and the vision we have. Huge efforts have been put in this annual spotlight on child protection funding in humanitarian action, highlighting the fundamental importance of collective action. Thank you for this work to elevate children and their protection.

Roy Moussalli

*Chair, Strategic Advisory Group for the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility  
Executive Director, Syrian Society for Social Development*

Kirkuk, Iraq. 16th October, 2016. Two boys play at Dibis checkpoint near the Iraqi city of Kirkuk.  
RUAIRIDH VILLAR/SAVE THE CHILDREN



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Children make up 50% of those affected in humanitarian crises and are disproportionately impacted by conflict and crisis. Throughout 2020 and 2021, COVID-19, conflict and climate change have been impacting children at unprecedented scale, putting them at risk and driving displacement, poverty and violence. Whilst funding for child protection is increasing, child protection consistently remains one of the most underfunded sectors in humanitarian action and funds not meeting increasing needs. Closing this gap will require collective action to change the way we think about children's protection and its centrality to crisis response.

Building on the findings and research methodology of *Unprotected: Crisis in Humanitarian Funding for Child Protection*<sup>1</sup> (2019) and *Still Unprotected*<sup>2</sup> (2020), this report highlights key areas associated with funding for child protection in humanitarian crises, including both cluster and refugee responses in 2020. A snapshot is also given for 2021 with data available as of October 2021.

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## KEY FINDINGS ON CHILD PROTECTION FUNDING

- Armed conflict and crises continue to take a devastating toll on children, with complex challenges increasing further in the face of climate change and COVID-19. As global and national economies took significant hits and lockdowns changed daily life, **child protection actors have continued to innovate and adapt to ever increasing needs by developing new tactics that ensure children's well-being and protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.**
- Encouragingly, funding for child protection in humanitarian settings is increasing. US\$ 177.9 million was received for child protection specific funding in 2020, up from US\$ 156.5 million in 2019 and US\$ 144.6 in 2018. **Despite this however, the gap between child protection needs and funding received continued to**

**grow alarmingly in 2020 and 2021.** Resources are not meeting the increasing needs that have been only exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These gaps must be acknowledged as part of a broader trend of underfunding across all sectors with child protection disproportionately represented. For example, **an in-depth analysis of 2020 Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs)<sup>3</sup> along with the Bangladesh Rohingya Joint Response Plan (JRP) reveals that only 24% of funding for child protection needs were received on average, down from 42% in 2019<sup>4</sup>. Also in 2020, 50% of humanitarian responses analysed (13 of the 25) received less than 25% of their child protection funding requirements.**

- **Furthermore, in 2020, these responses were funded at 56% overall, down from 70% in 2019.<sup>5</sup>** Together, these trends indicate that **whilst funding gaps have increased across sectors, child protection has been hit disproportionately.** As of December 2021, only US\$ 145.6 million of child protection specific funding is currently recorded under the FTS but delays in reporting are likely to see this figure increase<sup>6</sup>.
- **Significant variations in funding prevent an equitable child protection response, including across humanitarian responses and within regional response plans, where unpredictability makes it difficult to build sustainable systems and effective responses.**

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## KEY MESSAGES FOR PATHWAYS TO CHANGE

- **Children and their protection must be placed as central to all humanitarian action.** This requires collective action along key pathways to change that prioritise children.
- **Improving children's well-being and protection is a collective responsibility** that will benefit us all.

- **Child protection is critical in keeping children safe from harm** and where we have the resources to deliver, it leads to better outcomes for children in other sectors.
- **Much is already being done** and we know the solutions and standards to create and demonstrate impact. However, a step change is needed in how child protection is taken account of in humanitarian action.
- **Investing in shifting power and sharing knowledge and skills** with community, local and national actors, including shifting funding to them, will better integrate diverse local perspectives, expertise, and initiatives into responses that protect children.
- **Further supporting the collection and analysis of strong, evidence-based data** will help understand impacts and amplify a narrative of life-saving child protection interventions supporting calls for the funds necessary to keep children safe during humanitarian crises.

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### TRACKING CHILD PROTECTION IN INTEGRATED AND MULTIPLE SECTOR INVESTMENTS

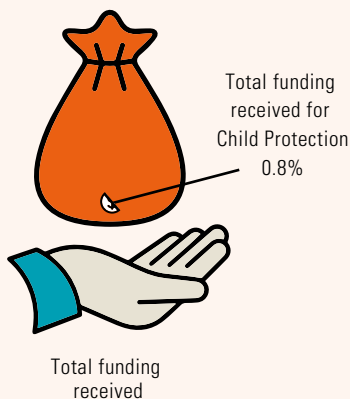
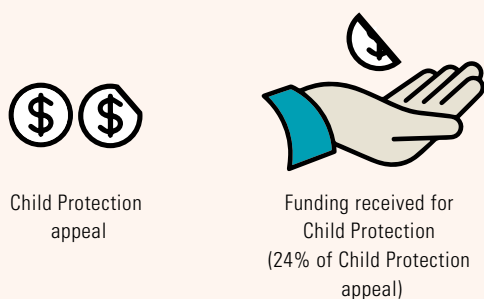
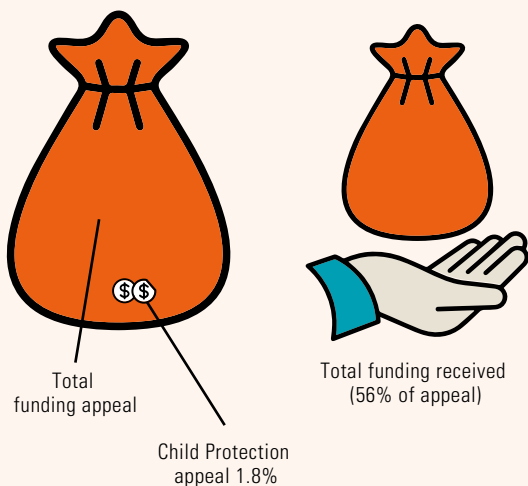
This report seeks to strengthen its findings by drawing attention to the funding contributing to child protection that can be found within broader protection and multiple sector programmes. On top of the US\$ 161.4 million reported under child

Afsana\* plays with her best friend Poly\* the KKS school she attends in Bangladesh.

ALLISON JOYCE/SAVE THE CHILDREN



## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING



OVERALL APPEAL = 100%

FUNDING LEVEL OF THE OVERALL APPEAL: 56% (70% IN 2019)

CHILD PROTECTION APPEAL AS PORTION OF THE OVERALL APPEAL: 1.8% (2% IN 2019)

FUNDING LEVEL OF CHILD PROTECTION APPEAL: 24% (42% IN 2019)

FUNDING RECEIVED FOR CHILD PROTECTION AS PORTION OF TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED: 0.8% (1.2% IN 2019)

Based on the analysis of 25 response plans in 2020: HRPs for Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, oPt, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe, and the Bangladesh JRP. 2019 data is based on FTS data for 17 HRPs and Bangladesh JRP. If Syria 3RP, with data sourced from the No Lost Generation Initiative, is included in the calculations for 2019, the figures are slightly different.

protection in the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) in 2020, US\$ 16.5 million of child protection specific funding was found under the overall Protection sector. Added to this, an additional US\$ 89.2 million has been located as potentially attributable to child protection in funding for programmes where child protection is integrated within the Protection sector or multiple sectors funding for 2020. This indicates an important investment in both dedicated child protection programming as well as integration of child protection within protection programming and other sectors which is in line with recommendations in the Child Protection Minimum Standards. Although the tracking of standalone child protection funding has increased significantly, the system is not yet able to effectively track integrated programming and attribute multiple sectors funding to individual sectors. Increased trends toward multiple sector and integrated programming means that solely tracking specific child protection funding will not give the full picture.

While we are tracking the amounts for child protection specific interventions within humanitarian responses, adding on the most generous estimations of child protection within multiple sector funding and integrated in protection programming would leave child protection underfunded at approximately 50%.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

This report sets out a **6-point action plan** to change the framing and support for children's protection and its centrality to humanitarian action. These call for immediate urgent action to:

1. Prioritise children and their protection
2. Scale up and adapt financing
3. Strengthen tracking systems
4. Shift power and resources to implement the localisation agenda
5. Prioritise the mainstreaming and integration of child protection across sectors alongside specialised support
6. Ensure accountability through strengthened measurement, analysis of needs and impact



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## INTRODUCTION

**“We must look out for each other, support each other and stand against violence together! One day, this sentence- to end violence against children- will no longer exist, will no longer be necessary. One day, all children will live in a violence free world.”**

– Sonia, 18 years old, India<sup>7</sup>

2020 and 2021 will be marked in history as the years of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the needs of children and their families skyrocketed. It has served as a reminder of interconnectedness, not only of global populations, but of issues, as children affected by COVID-19 have also been impacted by social restrictions, escalating poverty and increasing conflict.

While child protection staff are meeting increasing needs through innovations and adaptations<sup>8</sup>, these needs have not been met with a corresponding upsurge in funding. As a result, millions of children

living in humanitarian contexts are not able to access the critical, lifesaving and essential services that keep them safe. In the face of these concerning trends, this report highlights child protection funding in humanitarian action by taking into account current circumstances and bringing new analysis to the table in order to foster an understanding of the impacts of these trends. The recommendations seek to chart clear paths forward for collective action by the international community, making a clarion call for the centrality of children and their protection in humanitarian action<sup>9</sup>.



A Venezuelan migrant family is waiting for medical attention in the midst of the pandemic at a care post in the municipality of Los Patios in Norte de Santander

JENNIFER RINCÓN/SAVE THE CHILDREN

## PART 1

# A- HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR CHILD PROTECTION, 2020

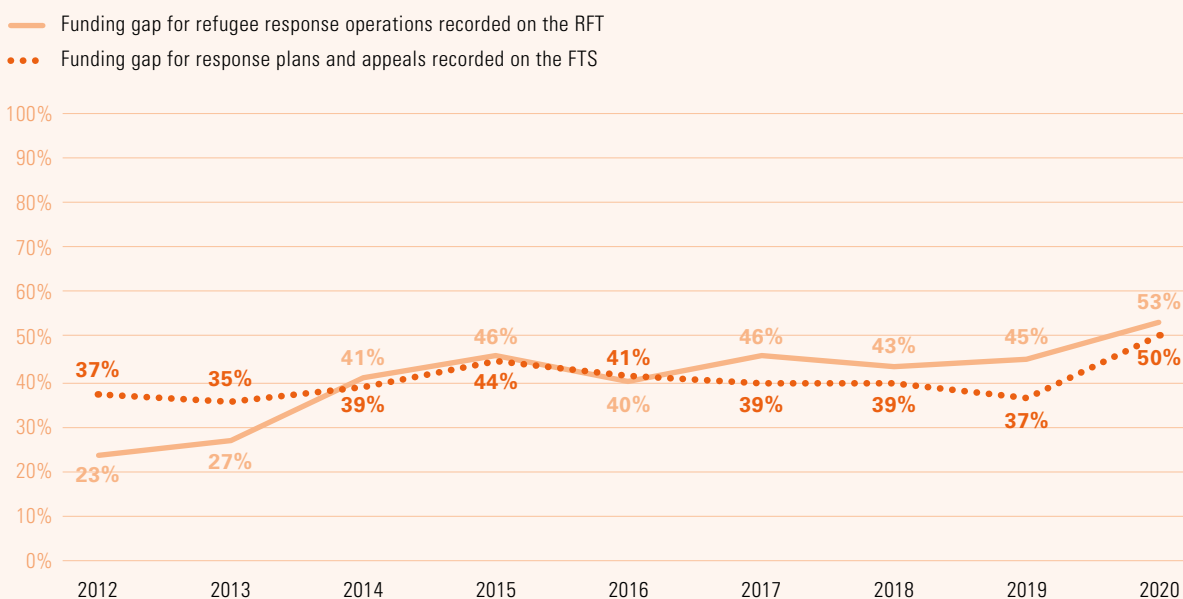
### GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW FOR 2020 AND FINANCIAL TRACKING SERVICE

At the end of 2019, a total requirement of US\$ 28.8 billion was projected for humanitarian responses in 2020<sup>10</sup>. In March 2020, the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 was published, followed by two revisions, to request additional funding to address the health and non-health consequences of the pandemic. Final requirements reached US\$ 40 billion for 63 countries - a 40% increase from the original ask. The Financial Tracking Service (FTS), managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), centralises data on humanitarian funding flows and shows that in 2020 inter-agency coordinated appeals were 50% funded<sup>11</sup>. Funding requirements for inter-agency coordinated plans and refugee response operations have increased over the period 2012 to 2020 and so has the funding received, according to FTS data and information from UNHCR's Refugee Funding Tracker (RFT).

### WHAT DOES THE FTS REVEAL ON CHILD PROTECTION FUNDING IN 2020?

The FTS tracks humanitarian funding by sectors and specific tracking of child protection funding was initiated in 2017. In recent years, reporting for child protection has been improved and facilitated by the updated approach to the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC). This standardised the disaggregation of funding requirements per Area of Responsibility (AoR) within the Global Protection Cluster or for child protection as a sub-sector. According to the FTS, US\$ 140.4 million was received in 2020 for Child Protection<sup>13</sup> with an additional US\$ 21 million gained outside of response plans and appeals. That is a total of US\$ 161.4 million reported under child protection on the FTS. The website suggests that the sector's requirements were covered at 40.7%. However, this figure is not accurate as it compares funding received for 29 responses/appeals against requirements of only 17 responses/appeals - thereby leading to an overestimation of the funding level<sup>14</sup>.

**FIGURE 1 THE WIDENING OF FUNDING GAP RFT AND FTS (2012-2020)<sup>12</sup>**



To address this inaccuracy, this report focuses on Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) and Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) for which child protection data is complete and compares similar sums of data<sup>15</sup>.

## CHILD PROTECTION SPECIFIC FUNDING FOR 2020

Based on the FTS database, there was an estimated total of US\$ 177.9 million for child protection specific funding in 2020, encouragingly up from US\$ 156.5 million in 2019 in US\$ 144.6 million in 2018. The total of US\$ 177.9 million is based on aggregated data on:

- **US\$ 161.4 million funding reported directly under the child protection sector** on the FTS (CP FTS) showing an increase from US\$ 102.2 million reported in 2019.
- **Plus US\$ 16.5 million of child protection specific funding found under the overall Protection sector through a keyword search (CP est.).** Funding found for 2019 in this category reached US\$ 54.4 million. The decrease in 2020 suggests progress in the appropriate reporting of child protection funding in the database.

To explain this estimation further, as observed in previous studies<sup>16</sup>, some child protection funds are

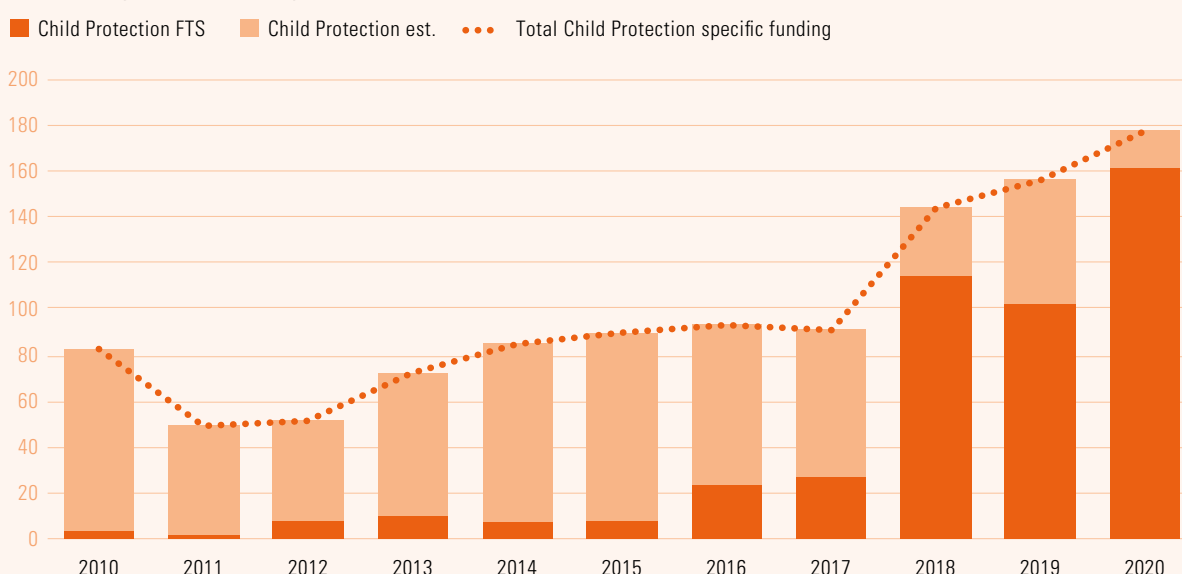
recorded under the global protection sector rather than the child protection sector. In order to provide a more accurate picture of child protection specific funding, the study team identified funds within the protection sector that are for child protection activities - applying the keyword search methodology used in *Still Unprotected*<sup>17,18</sup>.

The research has shown that child protection specific funding, presumably mistakenly reported in the protection sector, is considerably smaller than the one found for 2019 (US\$ 54.4 million down to US\$ 16.5 million in 2020) which indicates that reporting of specific child protection funding on the FTS is improving.

The top 10 sources of child protection specific funding in 2020 were: the USA (18%), ECHO (12%), UNICEF (11%), Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPF – 7%), CERF (7%), Canada (6%), Japan (5%), Sweden (4%), the Netherlands (4%), and Denmark and Switzerland (3% for each).

Looking at the recipients, child protection specific funding identified is mostly received by UN agencies (UNICEF 62%, UNHCR 2.5%, UN Population Fund 2% and IOM 2%) and International NGOs (Save the Children 14%, Plan International 3%, Terre des hommes 2%). Additionally, based on the database, national and local NGOs *directly*

**FIGURE 2 ESTIMATED HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR CHILD PROTECTION SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING 2010-2020 (BASED ON FTS)<sup>18</sup>**



# MULTIPLE SECTOR FUNDING

The FTS database allows a funding flow to be linked to multiple values of destination parameter<sup>19</sup>: destination countries, destination years and - most importantly for the present study - destination sectors. As clarified in *Hidden Money: Growth of multiple sector funding*<sup>20</sup> - an article authored by Mike Pearson - there is a growing trend of humanitarian funding going to multiple sectors, and in 2020 8% of all humanitarian funding to response plans was multiple sector<sup>21</sup>. Despite being recorded in the database, these funds are not attributed to any sectors. Mike Pearson's study presents a quick workaround to help us estimate how much went to each sector based on the assumption that the value of the funding is equitably shared amongst all sectors involved in the project. This is the method used here in the absence of a better methodology and disaggregated data. Please note this method may lead to an overestimate in the case of child protection, as the share of child protection would typically be very limited in high-cost or infrastructure intensive sectors such as health, food security, WASH or shelter<sup>22</sup>.


(without intermediaries) received 3% of total child protection specific funding, this increased to 5% when including local and national private actors. The proportion of child protection funding received *indirectly* by national and local NGOs - i.e. passing by INGOs, UN agencies or other multilateral organisations - is unfortunately not known.

As a general caveat, measuring child protection funding in a comprehensive way is challenging as funding on the FTS is reported on a voluntary basis and it is difficult to capture child protection funding where it is one component or one sector of a larger program. Finally, in refugee settings, child protection funding is integrated under the overall protection funding with a breakdown rarely available.

## FUNDING FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN INTEGRATED AND MULTIPLE SECTOR PROGRAMMING

In addition to the US\$ 177.9 million for specific child protection programming, this report seeks to complement and strengthen its findings by drawing attention to funding for integrated child protection programming, and funding for child protection in multiple sector responses. Based on FTS data, the research team found for 2020:

- **A total of US\$ 15.9 million where child protection is integrated in protection programming (US\$ 74.4 million in 2019).**



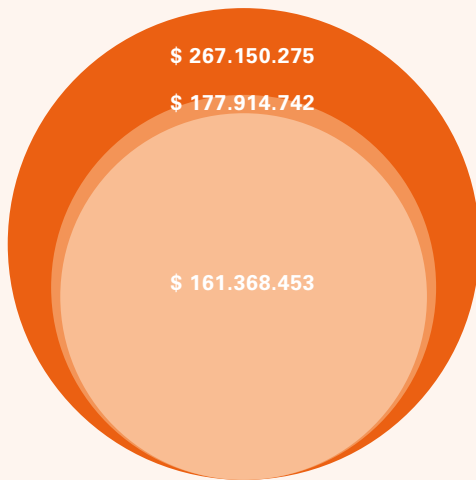
Children play amongst the ruins of Mosul's Old City, which was heavily bombed in the battle to retake the city from Islamic State control.

CLAIRE THOMAS/SAVE THE CHILDREN

**FIGURE 3 2020 FUNDING FOR CHILD PROTECTION  
- ESTIMATIONS BASED ON FTS**

CP = Child Protection

- Potential CP funding in integrated/multiple sector investments** Funding potentially attributable to CP (likely over estimates): estimates from multiple sector funding and integrated CP funding in the larger protection sector
- CP est.** Additional child protection specific funding identified on the FTS (under the protection sector)
- CP FTS** Child Protection specific funding identified on the FTS (reported under the Child Protection sector)



These are funding flows reported in the protection sector and identified here through a keyword search. This includes for instance funding for “CP and education,” or “CP and GBV for women and girls;” but no information is provided on the child protection attributed share.

- **US\$ 229.6 million<sup>23</sup> of “multiple sectors (shared)” funding found on the database for 2020<sup>24</sup>** (US\$ 144 million in 2019). This is funding received for multiple sectors programming that includes a child protection component. Following the methodology of *Hidden Money: Growth of multiple sector funding* as mentioned above, we estimate that **there may be up to an additional US\$ 52.8 million tagged to child protection from multiple sectors funding and possibly up to US\$ 21.5 million from multiple sectors funding recorded under the broader tag of protection.** Although this is likely to be an overestimation, it helps call attention to investments in the integration of child protection within protection and multisectoral programming.

## UNICEF’S ACTION TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Based on FTS data, it was found that in 2020 UNICEF received and/or sourced around US\$ 111 million for child protection specific activities and a total of US\$ 17 million of multiple sector funding where child protection is one sector amongst others. In an attempt to triangulate FTS data with other data sources, calculations from UNICEF’s Global Annual Results Report 2020<sup>25</sup> indicate that UNICEF spent US\$ 393 million for child protection in humanitarian action in 2020<sup>26</sup>. Despite not having a clear figure for UNICEF humanitarian funding within response plans and appeals, this information gives us an idea of child protection funding absent from the FTS database.

Based on the FTS data, the share of multiple sector programmes that specifically call out child protection as a sector is increasing. This indicates that child protection is increasingly integrated across sectors and in the multiple sector response, showing a positive development in line with the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in humanitarian action (CPMS).

Even after these estimates of potential additional funding, it’s clear that child protection funding is lacking, with the 2020 funds covering only 50% of the requirements. Fig. 3 - 2020 Funding for Child Protection - estimations based on FTS.

The upcoming section will provide a more detailed analysis of child protection funding levels in 2020, with a focus on HRP and the Bangladesh Joint Response Plan (JRP). The report will also present information on child protection in two regional RRP, Syria 3RP and Venezuela RMRP, when the data becomes available.

# B- FUNDING FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN 2020 INTER-AGENCY COORDINATED RESPONSE PLANS, 2020

The following chart focuses on 24 HRP and the Bangladesh JRP for 2020. Unfortunately, information on child protection requirements for Colombia HRP in 2020 is incomplete.

Based on data from the FTS, the humanitarian response plans (inclusive of JRP) that received **the most funding for child protection** in 2020 are:

- Iraq HRP (US\$ 15.2 million)
- Yemen HRP (US\$ 10.9 million)
- Syria HRP (US\$ 9.2 million)
- South Sudan HRP (US\$ 8.7 million)
- Bangladesh JRP (US\$ 8.4 million)

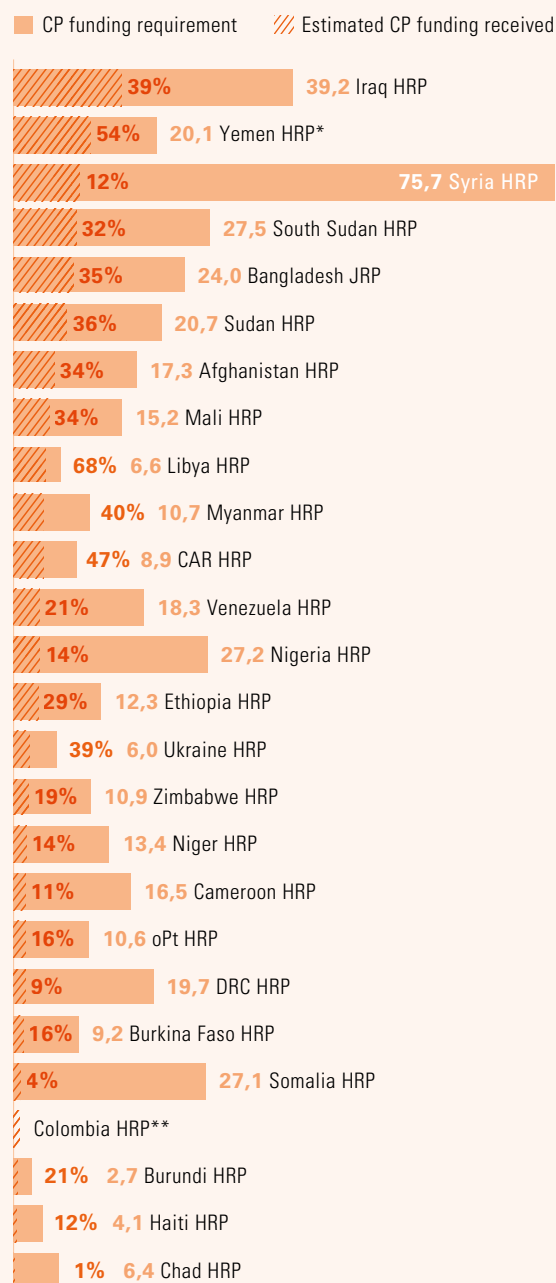
## CHILD PROTECTION FUNDING PROGRESS IN A SELECTION OF 2020 RESPONSE PLANS

Despite receiving the most child protection funding in 2020, responses like Iraq still show significant underfunding for their child protection programming, with only 12% funded in 2020. Similarly, Syria HRP was underfunded with 39% of child protection requirements funded.

The average funding level for these response plans is down from 42% in 2019 to 24% in 2020<sup>28</sup>, that is a funding gap of 76%. We recognise that underfunding is a broader issue across humanitarian response, and 2020 was a particularly challenging year, but child protection appears to be particularly affected with a funding gap of 76% in comparison to overall responses being underfunded at 44% across all sectors.

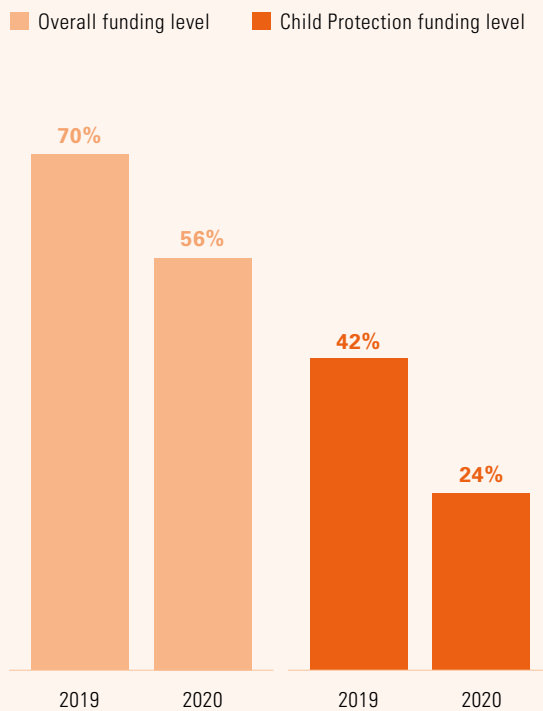
Further analysing the findings from figure 4 and corresponding data in Still Unprotected, it is easy to see how funding for child protection is unpredictable and varies over time. For example, the child protection funding level was estimated at 55% for Iraq HRP in 2018, increasing to 82% in

**FIGURE 4 SELECTION OF 2020 RESPONSE PLANS: ESTIMATED FUNDING<sup>27</sup> PROGRESS FOR CHILD PROTECTION**



Source: Based on FTS data accessed on 19/10/2021 - Child Protection requirements sourced from HPC official documents and the CP AoR. Yemen\*: The initial child protection requirements pre-COVID-19 for Yemen HRP was US\$ 38,147,003. During the year 2020, Yemen did a prioritization exercise, and all clusters reduced their funding requirements, child protection requirements were therefore reduced to US\$ 20,125,968. \*\*: 2020 Child protection requirements for Colombia HRP is not available.

**FIGURE 5 2020 FUNDING FOR CHILD PROTECTION - ESTIMATIONS BASED ON FTS**



2019 and dipping to a low 39% in 2020. In the case of Syria, it went from 74% in 2018 to 14% in 2019 and further decreased to 12% in 2020. Lastly, in the case of Yemen, the child protection funding level was estimated at 58% in 2018, which decreased to 40% in 2019 and increased again to 54% in 2020. The 2020 increase in funding for Yemen paints an optimistic picture in this specific case, however, following a prioritisation exercise for the HRP, child protection requirements were significantly reduced due to lower funds being received and COVID-19 constraints (US\$ 40 million in 2019 to US\$ 20 million). Funding received decreased in absolute amounts from US\$ 16 million to US\$ 10.8 million in 2020, even though it covered 54% of what was requested after the deprioritisation. Bangladesh JRP also illustrates the disparities of funding across time which further demonstrate the unpredictability in funding. After two consecutive years of high levels of funding for child protection (90% and 106% in 2018 and 2019 respectively), funding levels dropped to 35% in 2020.

Based on information collected for these response plans, this study estimates that in 2020 child protection requirements represent 1.8% of the

## WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE WHEN WE DO HAVE THE FUNDS

Narjis\*, was 10 years old when Save the Children supported her after she lost her family when her home was destroyed by a bomb in 2019. After receiving psychosocial support and participating in a children and young persons programme, staff report she is now a different child, engaged in activities with her peers and much happier. Narjis is just one example of a child who is part of an integrated case management approach in Iraq that identifies and responds to children who are facing risks to their protection. This includes referral to Cash for Protection or the Iraq Cash Working Group where people have been identified as having added vulnerability due to poverty. There are also local actors that mobilise the community to strengthen local protection networks and raise awareness on different child protection issues, while providing mental health and psychosocial support for families and positive parenting sessions for parents. The Iraq HRP is part of a wider inter-agency response and reached 550,000 people in 2020 through child protection programming. Interestingly, this amounts to 93% of the people targeted, despite the low levels of funding<sup>30</sup>. This impressive reach may be attributed to broad awareness raising campaigns that complement more complex and resource intensive interventions.

total requirements. And funding received for child protection represents 0.8% of all funding received across sectors. Similar shares (2% and 1.2%) were found in Still Unprotected for the analysis undertaken on 17 HRPs and the Bangladesh JRP from 2019 – however when including the Syria 3RP in the analysis, child protection was found to represent on average 1.4% of all funding received as the share of child protection is larger in the Syria 3RP than on average in HRPs.

## REACHING CHILDREN WITH LIFE-SAVING CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

As part of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle that creates response plans, there is an assessment of the people in need which informs the response and financial requirements needed for those that can't be reached by existing resources and services. The funding gap means that humanitarian actors are unable to implement the response as planned and reach as many children and people as initially projected. Concerningly, this gap is only widening when it comes to child protection. The analysis of 24 HRPs and Bangladesh JRP demonstrates a funding level of 24% for child protection in 2020. In comparison, the analysis of 17 HRPs and Bangladesh JRP in 2019 found a funding level of 42% (47% with Syria 3RP in the calculation)<sup>31</sup>.

In 2020, 30 to 45 million children, families and caregivers were identified as in need of child protection services<sup>32</sup>. The figure was later revised

to 52 million due to the pandemic. These response plans were designed to target 15 million individuals, which represents only 29% of the population in need. With only 24% of the child protection response funded, this means that only 24% of programmes got the resources required to deliver the life-saving services and support for children - a small fraction when considering that those targeted are a subset of the wider people in need.

The funds that were requested for 2020 for child protection are also only 1.8% of overall funds requested for humanitarian response, which, if fully funded, could ensure the well-being and protection of millions of children.

## (IASC DEFINITION<sup>31</sup>) POPULATION IN NEED AND PEOPLE TARGETED IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS

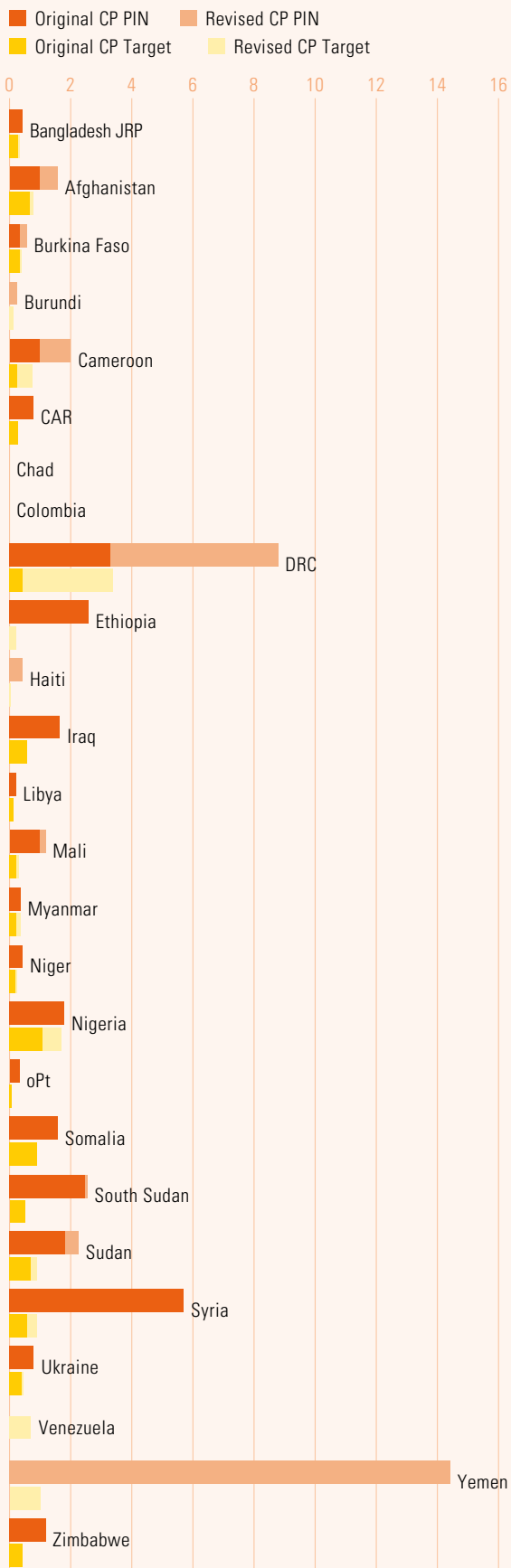
Population in need (PIN): subset of the population affected by a crisis - this represents the number of people whose lives have been directly impacted by the crisis and require humanitarian assistance of some sort.  
People targeted: subset of the PIN - this represents the number of people humanitarian actors aim or plan to assist considering available resources, existing constraints - including access constraints - and taking into account that some needs are already addressed by actors not participating in the response.

## HUMANITARIAN POOLED FUNDS – AN EFFICIENT TOOL TO ADDRESS CHRONICALLY UNDERFUNDED AREAS

UNOCHA's pooled funds are used to address chronically underfunded areas<sup>33</sup> and as such, are an important funding source for child protection. In 2020, 15% of child protection funding for humanitarian responses and appeals came from these funds<sup>34</sup>. UNOCHA reports that the Country-based pooled funds provided US\$ 14.5 million to support child protection activities in 2020<sup>35</sup>. Furthermore, based on FTS data for 2020, it is estimated that the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) provided around US\$ 11.6 million for child protection and US\$ 9.5 million for multiple sector funding where child protection is one sector. In October 2020, the CERF updated its criteria to recognise child protection as life-saving<sup>36</sup>.



**FIGURE 6 2020 RESPONSE PLANS: PEOPLE IN NEED AND POPULATION TARGETED FOR CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES**



## CHILD PROTECTION IN REFUGEE SETTINGS

### Child Protection in UNHCR programming

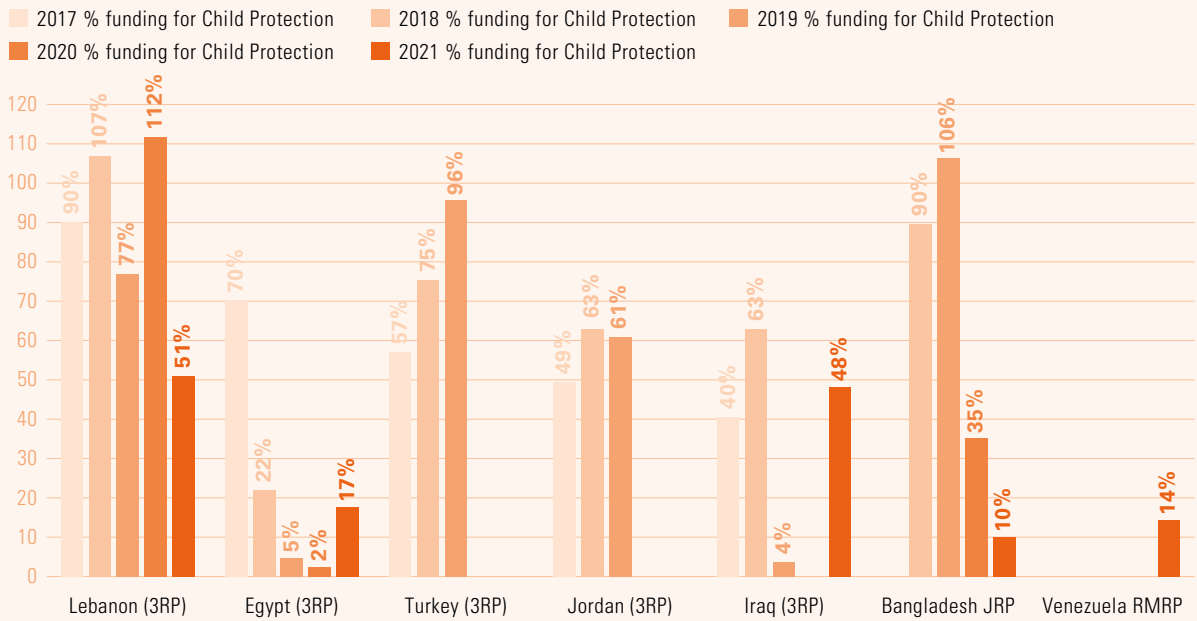
UNHCR funding for child protection continues to increase, in line with the upward trend in the number of children of concern and the overall budget of UNHCR. In 2020, child protection represented 1.7% of the UNHCR budget (it was 1.1% in 2015). The share is much higher in some UNHCR regional budgets with up to 3.3% in the Americas and 2.9% in Europe. From 2019 to 2020, funding requirements for child protection projects increased by 7%, and the funding gap increased from 44% to 46%. This is slightly less than the overall funding gap for UNHCR which reached 51% in 2020. This shows that within UNHCR child protection is prioritised but significant funding gaps remain.

### Child protection in inter-agency refugee response plans 2020-2021

In comparison to HRPs, child protection seems to be more prominent in the regional refugee responses' plans for which such data is available. Child protection requirements in the 2021 Venezuela RMRP represent 3% of the overall response requirements, with shares going up to 3.6% and 3.7% in the case of Brazil and Colombia<sup>37</sup>. In the case of Bangladesh Rohingya JRP, the share is 2.8% in 2021 and 2.7% in the 2020 original JRP (pre-COVID-19, 2.3% with the COVID revision). Within the 2021 Syria 3RP<sup>38</sup>, 4.2% was found for the Lebanon response, 3.5% for the Turkey response, 3.9% for Iraq and a high 12% for Egypt. Child protection in Jordan's response requirements is 1.4%.

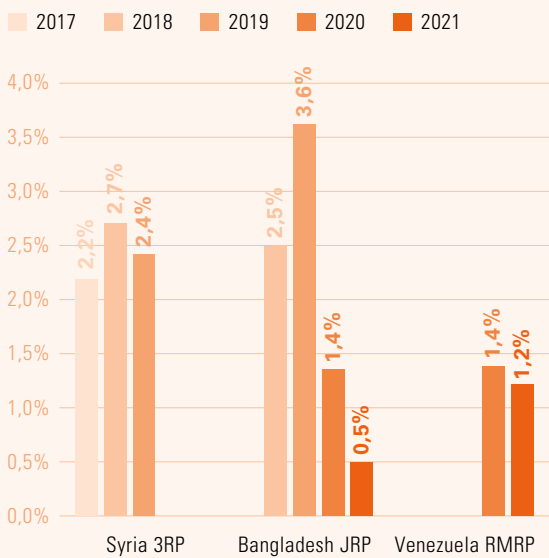
RRPs are also affected by underfunding for overall appeals and in particular for child protection. It is striking to see the stark differences between countries within one regional response plan. In 2020 the Syria 3RP funding levels ranged from a low 2% for the Egypt Crisis Response Plan but exceeded requirements for the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan with 160% funded. This trend seems to continue in 2021 where in the Venezuela RMRP 2021 child protection is funded at 14%<sup>39</sup>, with funding levels varying from 4% in Chile to 23% for Brazil and up to 28% for the Central America and Mexico response<sup>40</sup>. Such inequitable levels of funding, among responses and within a regional

**FIGURE 7 CHILD PROTECTION FUNDING LEVEL IN SYRIA 3RP COUNTRIES, BANGLADESH JRP AND VENEZUELA RMRP**



Note: Funding in 2020 and 2021 for Lebanon is exclusive of funding carried over.

**FIGURE 8 FUNDING RECEIVED FOR CHILD PROTECTION AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED: SYRIA 3RP, BANGLADESH JRP, AND VENEZUELA RMRP<sup>41</sup>**

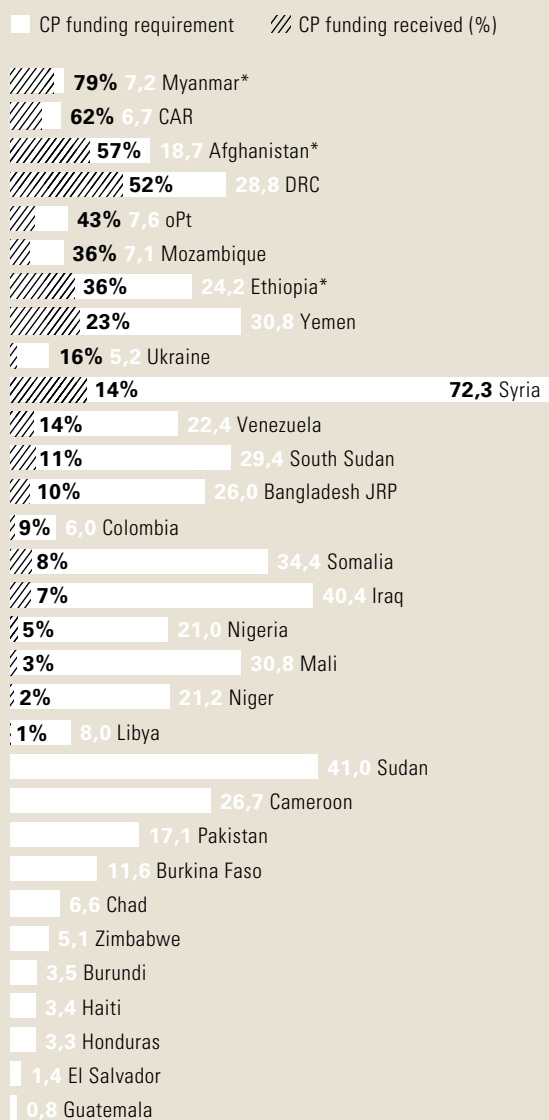


response, have a negative impact on humanitarian actors' ability to provide quality and equitable child protection services.

Analysing the funding that was obtained for child protection against the percentage of total funding received gives an indication of how child protection is prioritised in the appeals. For example, in Bangladesh JRP for 2020 and 2021, child protection requirements are 2.3% and 2.8% of overall requirements. But when looking at the total funding received, child protection received a small proportion of the funding for the appeal (1.4% in 2020, and 0.5% as of Q3 2021). This is a noticeable difference compared to the 2019 proportion (3.6%)<sup>41</sup>.

# SNAPSHOT OF 2021 CHILD PROTECTION FUNDING PROGRESS IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS (HRPS+JRP)

**FIGURE 9 2021 HRPS+JRP: FUNDING PROGRESS FOR CHILD PROTECTION AS OF OCTOBER 2021**



Source: FTS 31/10/2021  
 \* additional information on funding received for Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Myanmar from local IMOs and CP coordinators. In the case of Yemen, data is also sourced by the local coordinator.  
 Note: CP requirements in the Refugee Response Chapters of the HRPs 2021 are included.

# WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE WHEN WE HAVE FUNDS – LEBANON WITHIN THE SYRIA 3RP

In Lebanon, high funding for child protection within the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan in 2020<sup>42</sup> enabled the implementation of quality child protection response programming. We reached more people in need. Child protection actors exceeded the targets set at the beginning of the year for most child protection interventions. This included providing children at risk and survivors of violence, exploitation and abuse access to response services including case management and psychosocial support services, as well as community-level child protection activities. The high levels of funding meant we could reach a population of 62,800, including 10,667 children receiving case management and 11,748 children receiving focused psychosocial support as well as funding 244 community interventions<sup>43</sup>. Child protection needs for children and their families continue to rise in 2021 however with the economic crisis pushing millions of families below the poverty line and the ongoing impacts of the explosion of the port in Beirut in 2020 which may sit outside the reach of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan.

The child protection funding level for 2021, at the time of writing, is 15% for HRPs and JRP (flash appeals and RRP are excluded). Even if funding increases before the end of the year and taking note of the delays in reporting times to the FTS, the impact remains devastating for children in need of protection. Access to funding so late in the year does not allow for a timely delivery of life-saving child protection services. As of October 2021, only four responses have received a funding level that exceeds 50%<sup>44</sup>. Data shows that at the same

# WHAT IS PRIORITISED WHEN THERE AREN'T ENOUGH FUNDS – ZIMBABWE HRP 2021

In its HRP for 2021, Zimbabwe's Child Protection sub-cluster planned its response with different scenarios based on how much of the child protection requirements (the sub-cluster's envelope) will be funded. As such, the child protection response is prioritised as follows: If only 25% of the envelope is received, focus will be on Family Tracing and Reunification, support to children in contact with the law and specialist child protection services to survivors of violence. If 26-75% of the envelope is received, the Sub-Cluster would prioritise birth registration support and psychosocial support. If 76-100% of the envelope is received, the cluster would focus on critical dissemination of protection messaging.

point in 2020, funding for the sector was 32% higher indicating a worrying deprioritisation of child protection in humanitarian spending.

## CONCLUSION

While the absolute amounts of funding going specifically to child protection increased from 2019 to 2020 (from US\$ 156.5 million to US\$ 177.9 million), the gap between child protection needs and funds available is widening significantly. This study found that the funding level of child protection responses dropped from 42% in 2019 to 24% in 2020. This means funding gaps have widened from 58% to 76% between 2019 and 2020. These gaps are also reflected in the devastating rate of underfunding of child protection across responses, with 50% of humanitarian responses analysed (13 of the 25) receiving less than 25% of their child protection funding requirements in 2020. Based on data

available for 2020, the situation was particularly damaging for Bangladesh JRP, Burkina Faso, CAR, DRC, Iraq, Niger, oPt and Somalia.

Despite low overall funding levels in 2020, some HRPs seem relatively better funded than in 2019. In the cases of Afghanistan, Mali, Sudan and Venezuela we see an increase of child protection specific funding in absolute amounts and an increase in funding levels in comparison to 2019<sup>45</sup>.

Funding for multiple sector responses is also increasing and this is likely to increase funding for child protection services. When it comes to integration, an analysis from the CP AoR<sup>46</sup> on 2021 HRP projects, found that for every 100 HRP projects accepted that contained child protection initiatives, 65% were child protection only, and 35% were projects where child protection is one component or is integrated (22% child protection "minority" and 13% child protection "majority").

Underfunding is a global trend affecting all sectors, and the funding gap for humanitarian aid is growing, but child protection continues to be more underfunded than the overall humanitarian response and funding remains insufficient to meet the protection needs of children.

Efforts to strengthen the capacity of child protection actors' in identifying needs and accurately targeting those in need are likely to be part of the reasons behind the increasing funding requirements. Throughout 2020, Protection Clusters reported an increase in harmful coping mechanisms, such as sale or exchange of sex, child recruitment into armed groups and growing mental health needs of affected populations<sup>47</sup>, signifying that child protection needs are also increasing at alarming rates.

## PART 2

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Coordinated collective solutions to tackle the ongoing chronic gaps in child protection funding are critical if the sector is to meet its mandate to deliver on protecting children and their well-being.

Fully funding appeals for child protection across humanitarian responses is fundamental for closing the gaps between funding and requirements for child protection.

All humanitarian actors have a responsibility to protect children. The centrality of children and their protection means emphasising the perspectives, needs, and agency of children, and advocating for stronger inclusion and prioritisation of these within humanitarian policies and decision-making<sup>48</sup>. It must be recognised and prioritised as essential and life-saving across the humanitarian system and this requires forceful commitments and funding.

In addition, targeted action is also being taken to support efforts in key areas that would help prioritise children and their protection within the humanitarian system. Following the launch of Still Unprotected, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility, Save the Children, and UNHCR held consultations with leading child protection donors to explore the key issues contributing to the funding crises and which of these should be prioritised for action by the child protection sector.

This section provides a snapshot of the current state of play. We consider localisation, multi-sector and integrated programming and building capacity to support accurate collection, assessment, targeting, costing and communicating impact. It highlights how coordination and collective action is being taken by the sector to strengthen children's protection and well-being in humanitarian settings.

Kalonji\*, 8, with his borrowed Math book. Kalonji\* doesn't own any books nor does he have other school supplies. He fled from his old village due to violence between militia and government forces. Even with only so little, Kalonji\* comes to school each day and dreams to be a school director someday.

JOAN MARIE DEL MUNDO/SAVE THE CHILDREN



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## A- LOCALISATION

Fulfilling commitments under the localisation agenda to shift power and resources into the hands of national and local actors will widen opportunities for additional funds. It also helps to build greater capacity, resources and ownership of national and local actors leading to more timely, appropriate and effective outcomes for children and their communities.

In 2016, the Grand Bargain signatories committed to achieving an aggregated target of at least 25% of humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible by 2020. Like in 2019, data from the FTS for 2020 shows only 3% of funding for child protection went directly to national and local NGOs. Although this does not capture all funding that is indirectly passed to local and national actors, it highlights that challenges continue to exist in tracking this accurately. In a mid-year stocktake by the Global Protection Cluster on levels of funding for protection<sup>49</sup> it was found that, in the first six months of 2021 across Humanitarian Response Plans and Appeals, only 6% of child protection funding was received by local and national actors while 71%

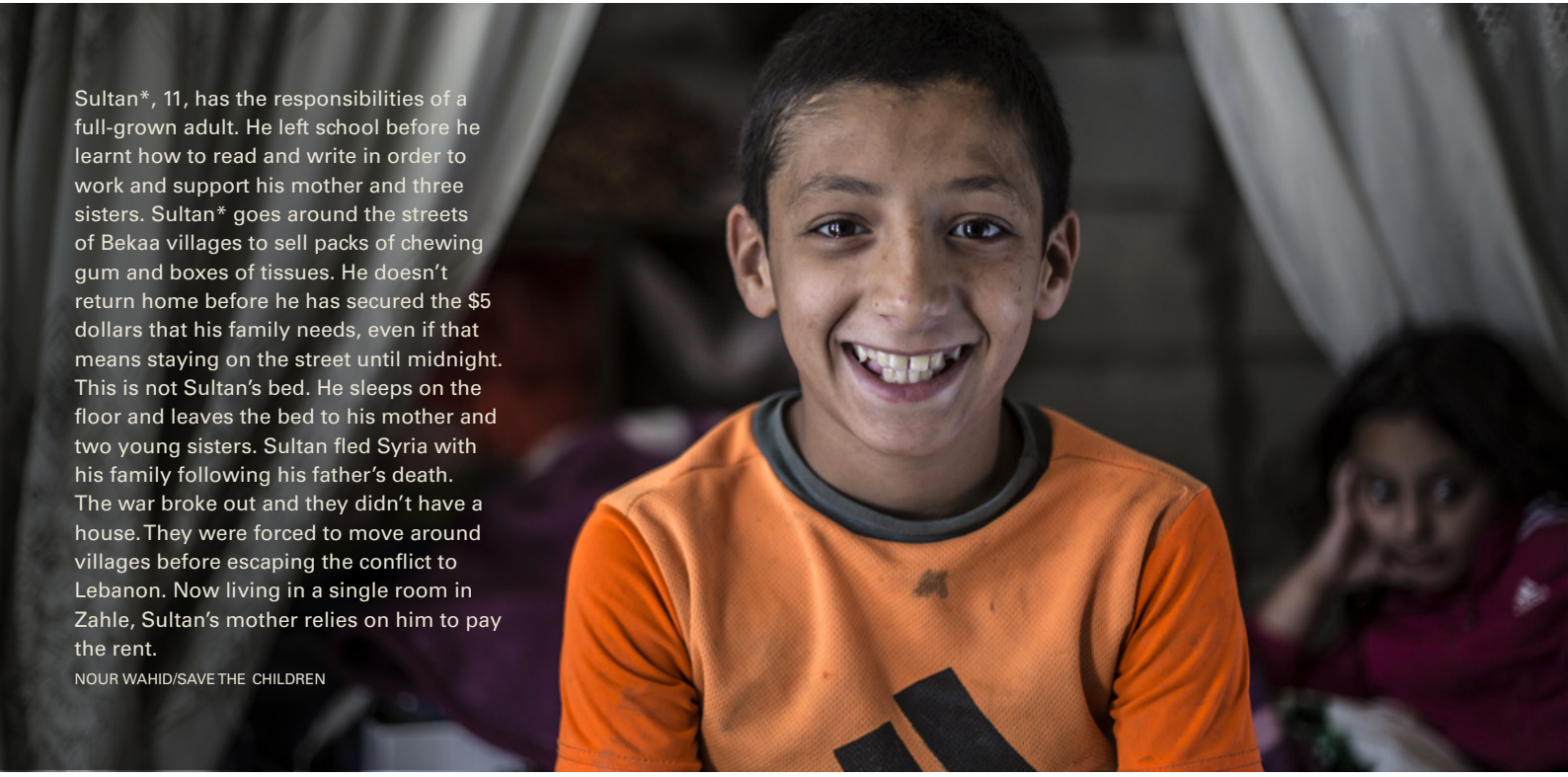
went to UN Agencies or International NGOs<sup>50</sup>. Given limitations in tracking funds, this is likely to be an underestimation.

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### WHAT ARE THE KEY BARRIERS TO PROGRESS?

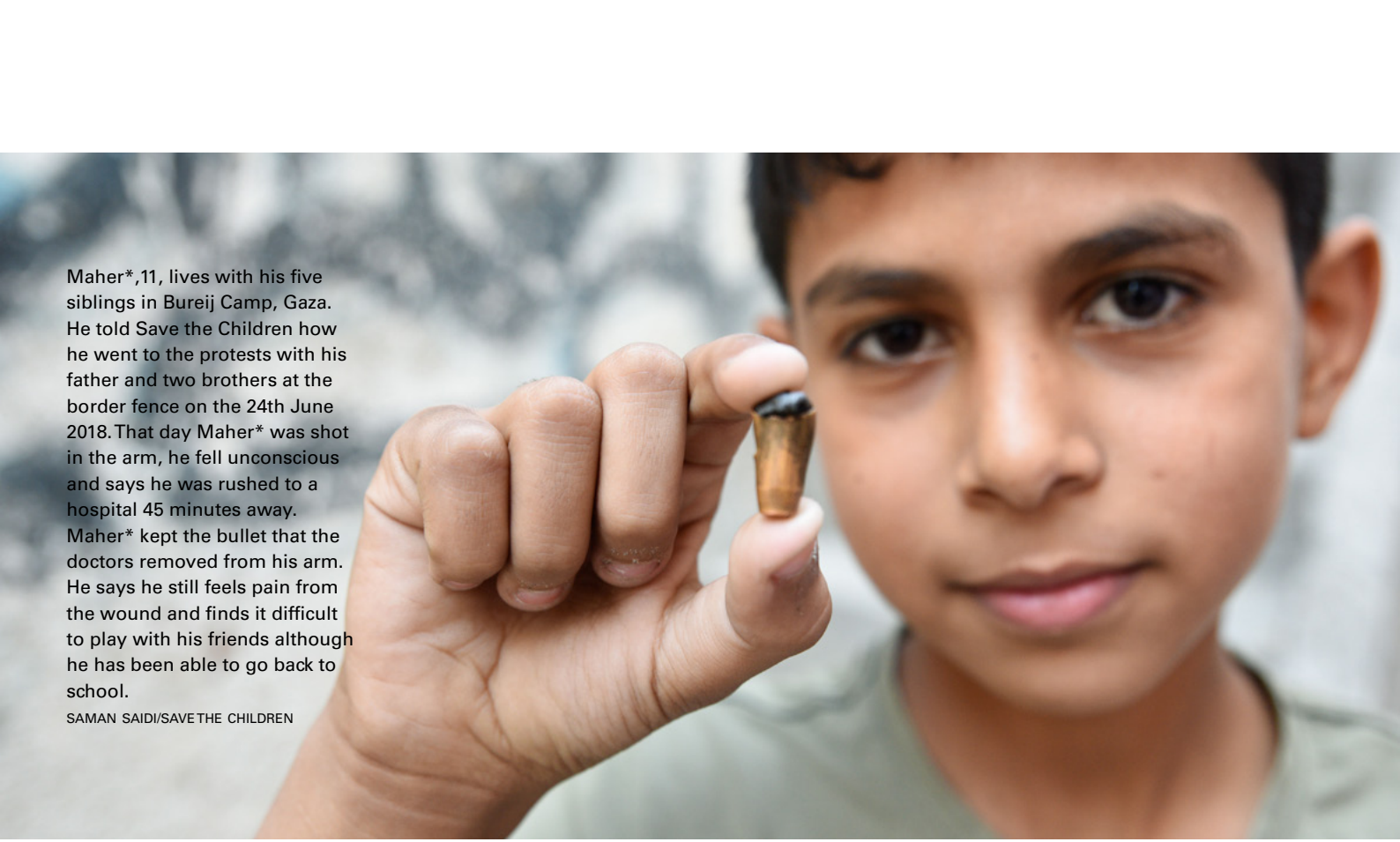
While understanding is increasing, efforts must be directed to promoting a culture of principled partnership between community, local, national and international actors, including within displacement contexts. This includes actively breaking down the barriers that hinder meaningful participation and equal access to opportunities for leadership, influence, growth and resources.

Increased investment is needed to support the localisation and removal of all barriers from humanitarian systems and structures so local and national actors can engage in humanitarian processes and funding decisions. The lack of flexibility in investment that supports the capacity



Sultan\*, 11, has the responsibilities of a full-grown adult. He left school before he learnt how to read and write in order to work and support his mother and three sisters. Sultan\* goes around the streets of Bekaa villages to sell packs of chewing gum and boxes of tissues. He doesn't return home before he has secured the \$5 dollars that his family needs, even if that means staying on the street until midnight. This is not Sultan's bed. He sleeps on the floor and leaves the bed to his mother and two young sisters. Sultan fled Syria with his family following his father's death. The war broke out and they didn't have a house. They were forced to move around villages before escaping the conflict to Lebanon. Now living in a single room in Zahle, Sultan's mother relies on him to pay the rent.

NOUR WAHID/SAVE THE CHILDREN



Maher\*, 11, lives with his five siblings in Bureij Camp, Gaza. He told Save the Children how he went to the protests with his father and two brothers at the border fence on the 24th June 2018. That day Maher\* was shot in the arm, he fell unconscious and says he was rushed to a hospital 45 minutes away. Maher\* kept the bullet that the doctors removed from his arm. He says he still feels pain from the wound and finds it difficult to play with his friends although he has been able to go back to school.

SAMAN SAIDI/SAVE THE CHILDREN

building of national organisations to achieve due diligence standards remains a significant obstacle that often prevents direct funding. Local and national NGO partners who take on coordination roles often don't have enough funding to cover the staff costs. On the other hand, trained local and national staff tend to get recruited by INGO and UN agencies while senior managers and field staff also continue to face language barriers for tools and cluster / coordination meetings.

Addressing these barriers would support efforts to promote strengthened and more systematic local and national actor engagement in leadership, coordination and decision-making fora. Humanitarian Coordinators and Humanitarian Country Teams also have pivotal responsibilities in supporting the implementation of localisation approaches. This is backed by the IASC Guidance on Strengthening Participation, Representation and Leadership of Local and National Actors in IASC Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms.

### WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

The launch of a new Framework for Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of National and Local Actors in August 2021<sup>51</sup> has been an important step

forward. This tool will support efforts to advocate for the allocation of Country Based Pooled Funds as well as develop institutional capacity strengthening strategies, identifying capacity needs and building roadmaps to support and sustain growth of local and national actors in the medium to long term.

Mentorship initiatives on capacity strengthening have taken place in a number of pilot countries, including Nigeria<sup>52</sup> and Iraq<sup>53</sup> focusing on key areas such as Governance, Financial Management, Human Resources, Resource Mobilisation and Programme Management. These efforts have led to a wealth of positive impacts including improved quality of services, increased accountability, cost effectiveness, better staff retention and financial stability. Furthermore, we saw an increase of NNGOs leading consortiums and more engagement with the Cluster and the Country Based Pooled Funds. Similar initiatives have also taken place in Iraq and South Sudan to accelerate the process of localising child protection coordination in order to strengthen meaningful participation and leadership of national actors in child protection coordination mechanisms<sup>54</sup>. In this case, efforts have led to increased national actor leadership as well as strengthened coordination and information sharing amongst national and international actors.

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## B- MULTI-SECTOR AND INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING

Multi-sectoral collaboration and integrated programming and collaboration is integral to achieving child protection outcomes – and to supporting the centrality of children and their protection. The multifaceted nature of child protection risks and the environments in which children live require efforts that connect child protection systems to other sectors as part of a bigger body of work to strengthen protective factors and contribute to well-being.

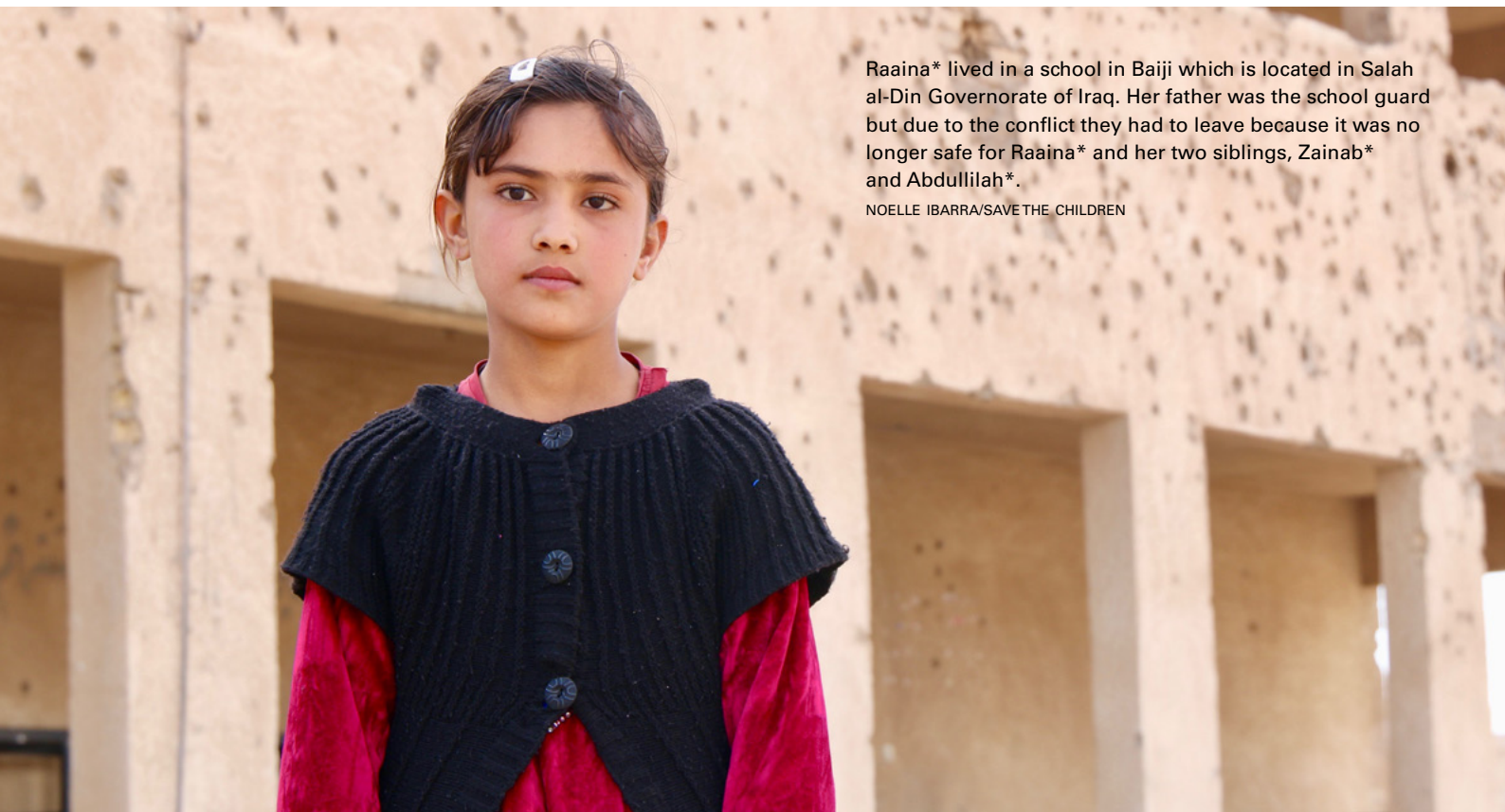
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### WHAT ARE THE KEY BARRIERS TO PROGRESS?

The longstanding resource gaps in child protection have stretched capacities and resources to limits that don't allow for capacity building and time to coordinate with other sectors, nor in developing the tools to be able to do so. This often leaves little time

to design and deliver on programmes with other sectors. Despite efforts to strengthen humanitarian coordination, the current cluster and refugee mechanisms do not enable integration and multi-sectoral responses.

Recent analysis of seven refugee response plans involving 35 operations undertaken by UNHCR, revealed that information on child protection mainstreaming was generally not reported, except for cash-based interventions and operational support. However, consultations with field colleagues have indicated that the mainstreaming of child protection in different sectors is happening, particularly when it comes to ensuring child-friendly procedures, although not systematically and not in all sectors. In settings where child protection mainstreaming is occurring, space constraints in the RRP template have limited the reflection of the work being done with specific sectors on this issue.



Raaina\* lived in a school in Baiji which is located in Salah al-Din Governorate of Iraq. Her father was the school guard but due to the conflict they had to leave because it was no longer safe for Raaina\* and her two siblings, Zainab\* and Abdullilah\*.

NOELLE IBARRA/SAVE THE CHILDREN





Robina, 9, left and her friend Charity, 12, fetch water together in Nmamyumba, Wakiso, Uganda. They are both holding jerry cans / water containers.

Water is essential for survival but for many girls in Uganda, it represents a huge burden that not only keeps them from school, but risks their lives and futures. Tragically, the water they bring home usually contains its own dangers that can leave children sick, blind or worse.

RICK D'ELIA/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Technical barriers also exist around the different language and terms used across sectors. These prevent counterpart colleagues from understanding what child protection is and what it is focused on achieving. The competition for limited funds available does not foster collaboration either, nor does the single sector focus for some funds.

### WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

Many actors within the child protection sector are already working well across sectors, and multi-sector and integrated programming and collaboration is a key pillar of the new 2021 – 2025 Strategy of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action<sup>55</sup>. Pillar four of the Child Protection Minimum Standards<sup>56</sup> is a critical tool with standards and guidance to support stakeholders in integrating child protection across sectors and upholding the Centrality of Protection.

There are ongoing initiatives with other sectors such as child protection and education that already have a significant history of collaboration<sup>57</sup>. There are also increasing links in recent years with mental health

and psychosocial support as well as child protection systems and GBV services that ensure the needs of adolescent girls are not falling through the cracks. Amongst others, a new inter-agency initiative has launched to strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration on children's protection and well-being in humanitarian, refugee and mixed settings. Led by the Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, the programme focuses on strengthening the collaboration across education, health, food security and shelter through the development of skills, tools and commitments to integrate children's protection throughout the humanitarian response. Funding data in the analysis above shows how there is an increasing trend for child protection programmes to be integrated into multiple sector responses.

In addition, there are ongoing consultations with the health sector on child protection mainstreaming and integration, including global level discussions with the health cluster and country level consultations in connection with updating the Guidance Note on the Protection of Children in Infectious Disease Settings<sup>58</sup>.

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## C- ASSIGNING ACCURATE NEEDS, TARGETS AND COSTS

Accurate presentation of child protection needs, requirements and the resulting impact of interventions are essential to advocating for increased funding to child protection responses.

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### WHAT ARE THE KEY BARRIERS TO PROGRESS?

Strong capacity by organisations to conduct comprehensive assessments and then analyse, interpret and present child protection data is crucial in ensuring the inclusion of child protection in response plans. The lack of consistent, sustainable funding prevents efforts to build child protection systems that have strong networks for the collection, analysis and reporting of data. Efforts to strengthen the localisation agenda within the child protection space would support the building of this capacity.

An accessible methodology for costing child protection responses does not currently exist, due in part to the varying contexts that may alter the costs of interventions. Such tools would support experts in producing informed and consistent narratives of child protection needs in a response ensuring accurate targets and requests. A methodology for costing child protection responses would also strengthen the understanding and support for child protection in humanitarian settings and counter political decisions that do not align with this. Without these tools, the necessary funds are not requested and secured, and capacity is not built to enable more solid analysis and accurate costs in the future.

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### WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

With such complex processes, examples where targeting, costing and requests have been cohesive are where there is a clear process outlined by the Cluster and where strong child protection technical expertise is involved to understand the needs and represent clearly what interventions are required.

In DRC for example, several mechanisms have been established by the child protection Coordination Group (Groupe de Travail sur la Protection de l'Enfance - GTPE). These mechanisms monitor the child protection situation and take into account the context where humanitarian actors operate to support accurate analysis for targeting and costing and eventually assessing impact. Key tools include:

- An adapted child protection rapid assessment tool based on key informant interviews and a 6W matrix. The information collected at sub-national level helps monitor the evolving situation and identify key child protection needs. It also serves as a basis for producing these public dashboards and to keep them updated on the humanitarianresponse.info portal ([click here for dashboard](#)).
- An alert and monitoring system implemented by the community-based child protection networks (RECOPE) and the subnational GTPE in 13 provinces and 25 districts ('territoires'). Information is fed back to national level through monthly analysis reports and minutes of meetings.
- Additional information on grave violations against children is collected through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms in collaboration with the United Nations Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) which provides a presentation of the main trends to the coordination group on a quarterly basis.
- The bi-monthly [Child Protection Newsletter](#) provides a country-level analysis of key trends and hotspots in provinces affected by humanitarian crises, and serves as a basis for evidenced based advocacy.]

To elevate child protection issues across the humanitarian system, evidence on child protection must be made available in a systematic and comprehensive manner. This includes access to better child protection risk analyses, cross-sectoral integration and reporting on the impacts of interventions on children and their protection.

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# CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Closing the significant gap between child protection requirements and humanitarian action funding requires collective action. We need to change the way we think about children's protection and its centrality to crisis response. This requires a recognition of the importance of child protection interventions, their life-saving nature and their need for prioritisation within humanitarian response plans. It also requires new humanitarian financing mechanisms, and vital funding commitments.

The following 6-point plan draws from learnings across the sector, including recommendations made from Still Unprotected. While we have seen some progress being made on important areas like increases in absolute funds and improvements in tracking, gaps between child protection needs and funding available are still widening at alarming rates. We are also seeing an increased gap between the levels of funding for overall appeals and comparative funding for child protection. A fundamental step change is needed to revolutionise how children's protection is made central to humanitarian action if we are to create the shifts needed to protect children in humanitarian response. Actors across the humanitarian response, including governments, donors, the private sector and civil society must:

## 1. **Prioritise children and their protection:**

Recognise the life-saving importance of child protection interventions, and commit to prioritising them within humanitarian response, humanitarian financing mechanisms and broader humanitarian leadership structures that guide humanitarian action.

## 2. **Scale up and adapt financing:**

- **Commit to fully funding appeals for child protection** across Humanitarian Response Plans and Regional Refugee Response Plans. As a start, ensure that child protection is funded at the same level as the overall appeal.
- **Continue to make funding available for multiple sector programming** that recognises both the centrality of children

and their protection as well as the need for specialised child protection programmes.

- **Require proposals to adhere to the Child Protection Minimum Standards** ensuring these are costed and funded accordingly.
- **Move towards more equitable funding** across responses as well as predictable, flexible, and multi-year funding models to strengthen stable programming.

## 3. **Strengthen tracking systems:**

- **Ensure tracking of child protection in funding mechanisms** so that funding is clearly identifiable, including for multiple sector interventions. This covers the tracking of funds going to local and national actors as part of commitments to the Grand Bargain and efforts to strengthen tracking of child protection within the Financial Tracking Service.

## 4. **Shift power and resources:** Facilitate meaningful engagement of local and national actors in humanitarian decision making processes. This includes action to:

- **Increase humanitarian leadership** both at national and global level to strengthen systematic support and implementation of localisation initiatives through a multi-pronged approach.
- **Invest and advocate for building capabilities** for the humanitarian child protection sector, with a particular focus on local and national actors and investment in systems building.
- **Actively and meaningfully engage children** to ensure their voices are heard and given due consideration.
- **Reduce administrative barriers of access to partnerships** for local and national organisations and particularly for refugee-led organisations.
- **Support changes to pooled fund requirements** to better allow for institutional capacity strengthening at local and national levels. This is so we can strengthen the ability of organisations to meet due diligence standards, particularly in financing systems, human resources and governance.



Elena\*, 6, came from Honduras with her parents. Her favourite activities are playing, running, and *"catching bad guys"*. When she grows up she wants to be a stylist. Her biggest dream is to get to the United States so that her parents can work. Elena says: *"My favourite activities are playing, running, and "catching bad guys". When I grow up I want to be a stylist in the United States."*

SAVE THE CHILDREN MEXICO

5. **Strengthen the focus on the integration and mainstreaming of child protection across sectors** in line with the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action. This includes:

- **Increasing the use of Pillar Four of the Child Protection Minimum Standards** in donor programme selection. This includes monitoring processes to ensure specific, prioritised support for funding and capacity strengthening initiatives for integrated and multi-sector responses.
- **Increased prioritisation of child protection risks**, data needs, and interventions by other sectors as part of the obligations to the Centrality of Protection.
- Promoting, supporting and facilitating opportunities for learning and development to facilitate **better working across sectors**, including through the use of Pillar 4 of the Child Protection Minimum Standards.

6. **Strengthen accountability in measurement, analysis and impact:**

- Ensure Humanitarian Needs Overviews, Humanitarian Response Plans and Regional Response Plans **clearly outline how child protection interventions meet identified needs**, adhere to the Child Protection Minimum Standards, and are costed accordingly.
- **Increase investment in the capacity to analyse child protection data**, including drivers of child protection risks and analysis of impact. This will allow us to identify prevention and response pathways whilst communicating the life-saving importance of child protection.
- **Strengthen the use of standardised tools and approaches** to define the cost-per-child of delivering quality interventions and support quality reporting on the impact made.

## CALL TO ACTION

**“Let it not end with us. Leaders, you have to ensure you protect children’s rights so that we have a better tomorrow! We are the generation that matters now, and we are tomorrows generation-protect our future!”**

– Lucky, 18 years old, Uganda

We can ensure an effective humanitarian response by placing children’s protection at the core. Urgent change is needed and possible, but requires deliberate, concrete and holistic engagement. We must work together to achieve these 6-points of action that will enable us to keep children safe and protected in humanitarian action. also local actors that mobilise the community to strengthen local protection networks and raise awareness on different child protection issues, while providing mental health and psychosocial support for families and positive parenting sessions for parents. The Iraq HRP is part of a wider inter-agency response and reached 550,000 people in 2020 through child protection programming. Interestingly, this amounts to 93% of the people targeted, despite the low levels of funding<sup>30</sup>. This impressive reach may be attributed to broad awareness raising campaigns that complement more complex and resource intensive interventions.

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# ENDNOTES

1. <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/15501/pdf/child-protection-funding-report-web.pdf>.
2. [https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/stc\\_still\\_unprotected\\_repport\\_high\\_sg-1.pdf](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/stc_still_unprotected_repport_high_sg-1.pdf).
3. Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, oPt, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. Colombia HRP is excluded due to lack of data on child protection requirements.
4. 2019 figure is based on the analysis of 17HRPs and the JRP. The figure of 47% presented in Still Unprotected includes 17HRPs, the JRP plus the Syria 3RP in the calculations.
5. 70% for calculations based on 17 HRPs and Bangladesh JRP for 2019. 67% for calculations based on 17 HRPs, Bangladesh JRP and Syria 3RP.
6. Figure sourced from the FTS 9/12/2021.
7. Quotes from Sonia (Introduction) and Lucky (Call to Action) come from preparation for a youth panel on Ending Violence Against Children for the UNICEF Child and Youth Forum 2021 supported by agencies from the CSO Forum.
8. Adapt. Imagine. Innovate. Child Protection during COVID-19: A catalogue of innovations and adaptations, Save the Children (2021) <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/adapt-imagine-innovate-child-protection-during-covid-19-catalogue-innovations-and/>.
9. The Alliance Strategy (2021 – 2025) [A Clarion Call: Centrality of Children and their Protection](#).
10. Global Humanitarian Overview 2020.
11. FTS accessed on 19/10/2021: US\$ 19.18 billion received in 2020 against US\$ 40 billion requested, plus US\$ 8.58 billion received outside the response plans and appeals.
12. FTS accessed on 5/11/2021 and RFT accessed on 31/10/2021.
13. FTS accessed on 19/10/2021 - US\$ 343.4 million requested.
14. FTS accessed on 19/10/2021 - FTS 2020 data on child protection is the sum of funding received for 23 HRPs, 4 regional plans and 2 other plans (Mozambique and Bangladesh COVID), but this funding is put against requirements of only 14 HRPs, 1 regional plan and 2 other plans – leading to an overestimation of the funding level as requirements data are incomplete.
15. The analysis is based on FTS data which is complemented by data, particularly on child protection requirements, found in official response plans documents and/or monitoring dashboards online or provided by the CP AoR. Thereby excluding flash appeals or other types of appeals where information on CP requirements are unavailable.
16. *Unprotected: Crisis in humanitarian funding for child protection, 2019 and Still Unprotected: Humanitarian funding for Child Protection, 2020*.
17. For further information see Appendix 1: Methodology and data limitations of *Still Unprotected*.
18. In comparison to *Still Unprotected*, funding where child protection is integrated across sectors is tracked separately. Figures from 2010-2020 have been updated to present solely child protection specific funding.
19. <https://fts.unocha.org/glossary/multiple-value-parameters>.
20. <https://humanitarianfundingforecast.org/stories-hidden-money/>.
21. Not to be confused with multi-sector in the FTS, which refers to projects and activities with no one dominant sector and often applies to UNHCR assistance for refugees. <https://fts.unocha.org/glossary>.
22. The 2020 estimation for the CP sector in Hidden Money: Growth of multiple sector funding (US\$ 47.6 million) is based on data extracted at a different date than data used in this report, and it only accounts for funding inside response plans and appeals.
23. US\$ 179.7 million recorded on the FTS under the Child Protection sector, and US\$ 49.9 million identified under the Protection sector where CP seems to be one component (based on description provided).
24. A total of seven entries have multiple years destination (US\$ 367.8 million for 2018-2022): these were omitted from the main analysis as no detail is available to disaggregate funding and estimate the share of funding for CP per year.
25. <https://www.unicef.org/media/102461/file/Global-annual-results-report-2020-goal-area-3.pdf>.

26. The Global Annual Results Report of 2020 states a UNICEF investment of nearly US\$712 million in 2020 for child protection - that is 12% of total UNICEF expenses. It also states that 55% of UNICEF 2020 investment to child protection is going to humanitarian action: US\$ 393 million for humanitarian action in 145 offices in 2020, compared with US\$ 375 million in 74 countries in 2019. UNICEF's five largest resource partners to child protection in 2020 (not limited to humanitarian action) are Germany, the European Commission, Sweden, the Netherlands and Norway which includes multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral grants.
27. Funding received is child protection specific funding (CP FTS +CP est.).
28. Based on 25 responses. Colombia HRP, Syria 3RP and Venezuela RMRP are excluded due to lack of data on child protection requirements for 2020.
29. Based on 17 HRPs and Bangladesh JRP for 2019, and based on 24 HRPs and Bangladesh JRP for 2020.
30. [Iraq Humanitarian Response Overview Dashboard for January to December 2020](#).
31. [IASC, Humanitarian Population Figures, April 2016, page 5](#).
32. For the 24 HRPs mentioned above and Bangladesh JRP, but Chad and Venezuela HRPs are excluded due to lack of information on CP, PIN and target.
33. UNOCHA [annual report 2020](#).
34. The database downloaded for this study estimates the amount at US\$ 24.5 million excluding multiple sector funding.
35. A total of US\$ 13.3 million was found on the FTS (accessed on 19/10/21), with an additional US\$ 8 million for multiple sector funding.
36. <https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/CERF%20Life-Saving%20Criteria%202020.pdf>.
37. Source: FTS and the inter-agency coordination platform for refugees and migrants from Venezuela (R4V). In monetary terms child protection funding requirements were US\$ 42,932,045 out of US\$ 1,439,234,410 required for the overall response.
38. Syria 3RP data is based on monitoring dashboards available on UNHCR Operational data portal and 3RP official strategy and reporting documents complemented by figures provided by UNHCR. Figures from 2019 and previous years are provided by the No Lost Generation Initiative.
39. As of Q3 2021.
40. In monetary terms, overall the Venezuela RMRP received US\$ 6,185,676 out of a requested US\$ 42,932,045 (14%) in 2021. Breaking this down by country within the RMRP, the 2021 Chile response as of October had received US\$ 29,715 of US\$ 741,551 requested (4%), Brazil US\$ 833,533 of US\$ 3,574,982 requested (23%) and Central America and Mexico received US\$ 60,780 of US\$ 219,900 (28%) requested for child protection in 2021.
41. Based on data available. Source of data for Bangladesh JRP and Venezuela RMRP is FTS. Source for Syria 3RP is UNHCR/No Lost Generation Initiatives.
42. The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan aims to provide immediate relief assistance to 1.9 million Syrian refugees, vulnerable Lebanese and Palestinian refugees, and deliver basic services to 2.5 million people, seeking to mitigate the impacts of the ongoing Syria crisis on Lebanon's infrastructure, economy and public institutions. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85374>.
43. Lebanon Crisis Response Plan – [Child Protection Working Group Dashboard](#).
44. [Child Protection AoR 2021 Funding Forecast Updated Q3 Forecast – 8th October 2021](#). The analysis from CP AoR is based on 29 HRPs, 5 Flash Appeals, the Rohingya JRP and the Interim Emergency Response Plan for Myanmar where the figures presented in this report focus on HRPs and the JRP only.
45. Funding levels (%) for child protection 2019, 2020 - Afghanistan HRP: 17%, 34% Mali: 14%, 34% Sudan: 19%, 36% Venezuela HRP: 17%, 21%.
46. [https://mcusercontent.com/29a879678bc603215f0a197d1/files/601713ff-ae5b-0f42-b9c1-2b41103df6f6/2021\\_HNO\\_HRP\\_CPAoR\\_Review\\_Final.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/29a879678bc603215f0a197d1/files/601713ff-ae5b-0f42-b9c1-2b41103df6f6/2021_HNO_HRP_CPAoR_Review_Final.pdf).
47. Global Protection Cluster [Aftershock: Abuse, exploitation & human trafficking in the wake of COVID-19 Global Protection Update](#) (November 2020).
48. The Alliance Strategy (2021 – 2025) [A Clarion Call: Centrality of Children and their Protection](#).
49. Global Protection Cluster [Mid-year review - A spotlight on local actors \(2021\)](#).
50. The data includes both Humanitarian Response Plans and Appeals. For the first time, the GPC collected data on protection funding directly from the partners of National Protection Clusters and Area of Responsibilities in 12 countries, which, for child protection represented 51% of the data. The FTS was used for the other 13 countries and may not be accurate not least from delays in reporting.

51. Framework for Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of National and Local Actors, CPAoR, Global Education Cluster (August 2021).
52. In Nigeria the programme built capacities of staff at the Grow Strong Foundation and the Restoration of Hope Initiative.
53. In Iraq with six child protection national NGO partners.
54. Final Report: Lessons Learned from Save the Children and CP AoR Initiative in South Sudan and Iraq (March 2021) National Actors who participated in the initiative included, in Iraq - Al Ghad League for Women and Child Care, Bent Al-Rafedain Organization (BROB), Foundation of United for Relief and Sustainable Development (FUAD), Public Aid Organisation (PAO), Sabe' Sanabul Organisation for Relief & Development (SSORD), Seeking to Equip People, and Voice of Older People and Family. In South Sudan they were Community in Need Aid (CINA), Hold the Child, Institute for Promotion of Civil Society (IPCS), and TOCH-South Sudan.
55. The Alliance Strategy (2021 – 2025) [A Clarion Call: Centrality of Children and their Protection](#).
56. [Micro-site for Implementation of Pillar Four of the Child Protection Minimum Standards](#).
57. [Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and Education in Emergencies](#).
58. Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, [Guidance Note on the Protection of Children in Infectious Disease Settings](#).





